

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070759

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R 082137Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070759

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJECT: NORTON SIMON NATARAJ

REF: NEW DELHI 3963, 4060

1. INFO IN REFTELS WAS HELPFUL IN POINTING UP THAT WE STILL HAVE SOME DISTANCE TO GO IN DELHI -- AS WELL AS HERE -- BEFORE THIS PROBLEM IS WRAPPED UP. WE HAVE TALKED WITH GONSALVES, WHO APPARENTLY HAS BEEN KEEPING HIS PEOPLE LESS THAN FULLY INFORMED; HE CONFIRMED THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT EMBASSY WORKS OUT WITH SIMON AND CO. WILL STILL REQUIRE GOI AND MADRAS GOVERNMENT BLESSING. WE ASSUME, AS YOU, THAT KAUL IN THE END WILL BE ABLE TO GET DEAL HE MAKES HERE RATIFIED BACK HOME. IN ANY CASE, WE DO NOT PLAN TO TELL SIMON AND CO. ABOUT THIS; THEY ARE HARD ENOUGH TO PIN DOWN WITHOUT ADDING NEW COMPLICATIONS.

2. ON QUESTION OF WHERE TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS, THINK
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PAGE 02 STATE 070759

IT BETTER TO CARRY ON HERE NOW THAT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE

HAS BEEN STRUCK BETWEEN SIMON AND KAUL. SIMON IS ONLY PERSON WHO CAN TALK FOR FOUNDATION AND A TRIP BY MACFARLANE WILL NOT SOLVE ANYTHING. TRICK NOW IS TO GET ORAL AGREEMENT INTO WRITTEN FORM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HOPING THAT THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED WHEN MACFARLANE COMES EAST LATER IN MONTH OR IN EARLY MAY WHEN GONSALVES WILL BE IN LOS ANGELES. EVENTUALLY, SOMEONE, PRESUMABLY ART EXPERT, WILL HAVE TO GO TO INDIA TO SORT OUT SOME OF DETAILS, BUT OUR EXPERIENCE WITH SIMON FOUNDATION IS THAT THEIR COMING OUT AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO MEET WITH MINED TEAM WILL ONLY ADD TO AND NOT REDUCE CONFUSION.

3. AT OUR SUGGESTION AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN SPOKE WITH DOUGLAS DILLON, BOARD CHAIRMAN OF NY METROPOLITAN MUSEUM. DILLON WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT AND SAID MET REMAINED INTERESTED IN STAGING SHOW. (AS REPORTED IN OUR 58480, ATTITUDE OF MET SEEMS TO BE THE MAJOR REMAINING STUMBLING BLOCK WITH SIMON.) RUSH

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